

GATEWAY GAZETTE

Volume 2, Number 2

January 2006

RCC Improves Internet Connection.

Christian White

While on my way to the 3rd floor computer lab, I stressed and panicked because my paper was due and the writing center had no available computers. Positive I would be faced with a similar situation when I entered room 351, I was ecstatic to find more vacant computers there than I could dream of. However, upon further investigation, I found every other computer stating in bold capitalized letters "CHECK SIGNAL CABLE".

Room 351 consists of twenty-nine computers and is the main computer lab for RCC students. Many students have expressed concern regarding the time it takes for the computers to navigate from one website to the next. I interrupted a young lady to my left, Linaise Lima, to ask whether or not she felt the computers were indeed slow. "Oh yeah, oh yeah, they have always been slow" she responds. With no further inquiry she added that "before you couldn't print, at least now you can print."

Another student, who preferred anonymity, said that "a major problem is that the Internet provider is based out of the University of Massachusetts and that when there are many students on

(Continued on Page 3)

Turkey With all the Trimmings



RCC staff and students gladly partaking of SGA's bountiful Thanksgiving celebration last month.

Photo: Milton Samuels

Show Us the Money! Feds Cut, Mass May Raise, College Aid

Robert Folan-Johnson

The US Congress passed a bill earlier this month that would cut financial aid for poor college students. Meanwhile, Massachusetts is considering a proposal that would increase aid for these same students.

In Washington the Republican-controlled congress voted to cut up to \$14.3 billion in appropriations for student financial aid, part of a reconciliation bill that would reduce federal spending by as much as \$40 billion through 2010. The bill, which included proposed cuts to Medicare and food stamps, is supported by fiscally conservative Republicans concerned over the ballooning federal budget deficit. After a public outcry, moderate Republicans backed away from supporting some of the proposed cuts, however, the college aid cuts passed as part of the reconciliation bill.

Republicans argued that the financial aid cuts were just reductions in proposed spending. Democrats and their supporters, however, were furious over the financial aid cuts, especially considering the Republicans will once again be proposing tax cuts sometime next year.

"The hypocrisy of the GOP is on full display

(Continued on page 3)

In This Issue

Administration	2
News	3
Editorial	5
Gateway Culture	6
Academics	9
Sports	12

Administration

Robert Williams and the RCC Foundation Help to Make a Difference For RCC Students

Miesha N. Williams

Just recently I have had the opportunity and pleasure of conducting an interview with Robert Williams. For those of you who don't know him, shame on you. Robert Williams is the president of the Roxbury Community College foundation. Mr. Williams has been with the RCC foundation for the past fifteen years.

Williams was born and raised in Indianapolis Indiana. He attended St. Josephs College in Indiana on a full four year basketball scholarship and as he puts it, a "God-given talent to play basketball." He kept his grades up, continued to play basketball and received a degree. After graduation, he worked for Charlotte Services internal revenue agency in Minnesota as a controller for the largest division for eight years. Through various promotions came to Boston and became the vice president for the Gillette Company. He retired from Gillette and shortly thereafter he came to RCC and graced us with his skills, motivation and drives to raise funds for the Roxbury Community College Fund.

Williams doesn't really have a position here at RCC because the foundation is separate from Roxbury Community College. This foundation has been specifically designed to help create scholarship funds for the students here at RCC. Roughly about 60% of the funds that have been raised from this foundation are given to the students for the purpose of money for tuition and/or fees. In the past, some of his techniques for raising money have been by approaching corporate operations, the alumni here at school, and by even suggesting matching dollar for dollar.

I asked what were some of the things that have motivated him. Mr. Williams said "Some of the things that have help motivate me were attending seminars and believing firmly that this is where I am supposed to be, doing what I'm supposed to be doing." Raising funds for RCC is a great effort on his behalf and one that is extremely beneficial to the surrounding communities. By having these resources provided to us at Roxbury Community College, it allows us to receive the academic education we so badly need in order to obtain a good job and be prosperous in our daily lives.

We must always remember to support these various foundations so people will be able to take full advantage of the opportunities they provide. I believe I speak for all of us here at RCC when I say thank you Robert Williams for your flawless efforts and support in helping our community and school.

Court: Mosque Lawsuit Can Proceed.

Robert Folan-Johnson

A Suffolk Superior Court Judge has ruled that a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the sale of discounted city land for construction of a Roxbury Mosque and Cultural Center can proceed. The court suit, against the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), the Islamic Society of Boston (ISB), and Roxbury Community College, claims that the BRA's discounted sale of the property to the Islamic Society of Boston (ISB) violated the state and federal constitutions. The property, which is adjacent to RCC on Malcolm X Boulevard, was valued by the city of Boston at over \$400,000. However, the Islamic Society of Boston purchased the site for less than half that.

The lawsuit, filed by Mission Hill resident James Policastro, claims that the reduction in the land's sale price amounts to a government contribution to a religious institution. The Boston Redevelopment Authority defends the discount sale of the land claiming that the ISB had agreed to offer community benefits. The ISB's Islamic Cultural Center would work collaboratively with the college by establishing a lecture series and an Islamic Law Library. An RCC spokesperson had no comment on the lawsuit as it is still in litigation.

The project is currently having difficulty raising the money with only construction of the Mosque ongoing. If the sale agreement is ruled unconstitutional by the courts, the cash-strapped ISB would be forced to pay market value for the land.



A model of the finished Mosque and Islamic Cultural Center

RCC Internet Connection

(Continued from page 1)

the UMass computers, we feel the effects (with a significant network slowdown) here at RCC."

My quest for answers led me next to room 333, the office of Information Technology. Patrick Jean-Louis, the IT Operations and Support Manager, was most pleased to help me out. He gave me a quick update, hinting that they (IT Dept.) had been aware of the problems with the Internet for some time. I learned that the bandwidth—which was at 1.5—has now been tripled to 4.5. With no prompting he spoke of some of the plans the IT Dept. had for the computer labs of RCC. Beginning with the computers of the Nursing Lab, all labs will systematically be upgraded to the same standards as the Lab in room 220. These changes will begin to take place in January of 2006. He continued by saying that "we are doing everything we can to satisfy the needs of the student to allow successful understanding and integration regarding information technology."

I asked Mr. Jean-Louis if there was anything we as the students of RCC could do to quicken the availability of these services he spoke of. He informed me that there wasn't because they depend mostly on grants and the school budget. However, he did have this to say: "When you do use the lab, once your work is completed, reset the computer. Shut it down, so the next student reboots it without having to shut the previous student's work down." This will avoid build up of work that will in all likelihood never be used again, thus saving not only you time, but also computer space.

It is nice to see that some of our students issues are being not only addressed, but acted upon. I, like most students who pay for school with no help from any government agency, expect to get my money's worth. Yet even with our expectations, we still have a duty to treat the school's merchandise with the utmost care—especially the computers.

Financial AID Cuts

(Continued from page 1)

as it touts what it considers to be a deficit reduction plan while simultaneously proposing nearly \$60 billion in new tax cuts for the wealthy," according to Ed McElroy of the American Federation of Teachers.

The proposed cuts in student aid will result in increased interest rates that poor students would be charged when paying back college loans.

Due to Senate changes to the bill, the House will be forced to again vote on the measure in late January. If it passes in the house then, President Bush is expected to sign it. Student organizations such as Studentaidication.com recognize that this House vote is their last chance to stop the bill and have organized to oppose the cuts in student aid.

Meanwhile in Boston, a draft proposal to divert state college financial funds from programs serving middle class students to a program that serves only low income students is being reviewed on Beacon Hill.

State Chancellor of Higher Education Judith Gill's proposal would increase the low income MASS Grant awards up to \$3,600, enough to cover tuition and fees at state community colleges. To do so would eliminate Gilbert and Access grants, which primarily benefit middle income students. Families who earn over \$36,000 a year would lose college aid funding. Some state legislatures have express opposition to the proposal.

Those in favor of Chancellor Gill's plan claim that the elimination of the Gilbert and Access Grants won't discourage middle income students from attending school, yet even a small increase in the cost of tuition for lower income residents is enough to keep them from enrolling.

Proponents of the plan also hope the state legislature can make up for the cuts to middle income students by increasing funding of state financial aid. That funding has been cut over the past several years but now that the state has a budget surplus, the hope is that some of those cuts will be reversed.

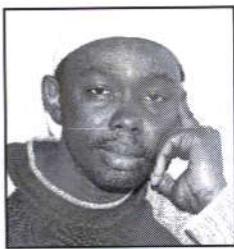
Tuition Breaks for Illegals Defeated

A controversial bill that would grant in-state tuition rates to undocumented immigrants has been soundly defeated in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The bill, which purportedly had significant support within the legislature, was voted down 96-57, because of sudden and strong opposition among legislature's constituents. Even before its defeat in the House, the legislation was expected to be vetoed by the governor. Significant support within the legislature would be needed to override that veto.

The bill would have enabled undocumented immigrants to pay Massachusetts residency rates while attending state colleges. This would amount to about half the amount they are currently required to pay. Proponents of the bill said it would only cost the state around \$15 million while opponents of the legislation claim that undocumented workers should not be given the rights and privileges of legalized state citizens.

Editorial

MISSING OUT ON OPPORTUNITIES



Recently I attended a series of seminars called the "Hub Crawl: Financial Services." I first learned of this event when I read a flyer placed on the information desk inside the Learning Center. I immediately signed up. Later on, I saw more fliers taped on walls around the school campus. The basic intent of these seminars, put on by the Boston Chamber of Commerce, was to enable business students attending colleges in Boston to learn about financial companies located in the city, in an effort to keep these students here after graduation. Dr. Rita Padmore, Dean of the Business Department at RCC and a member of the chamber, as I understand it, spent a lot of time and effort trying to make sure of RCC representation at these seminars. In fact, at the two seminars I attended, I was the only community college student, and the only one from the school there.

I have since learned that there were in fact three other RCC students at different seminars from the ones I attended. The point I'm trying to make? This school has many more business students enrolled. Why did only four sign up? Are people discounting the invaluable opportunities that these seminars present? Or do we just not pay enough attention to the signs around us everyday?

It has occurred to me that many students at the school do not in fact pay much attention to the various announcements circulated around the school. As students and future leaders, this habit could prove to be a hindrance to our development. Surely being aware of what is happening around us is as important as the lessons we learn in class each day. We should not be allowing opportunities like this simply to pass us by.

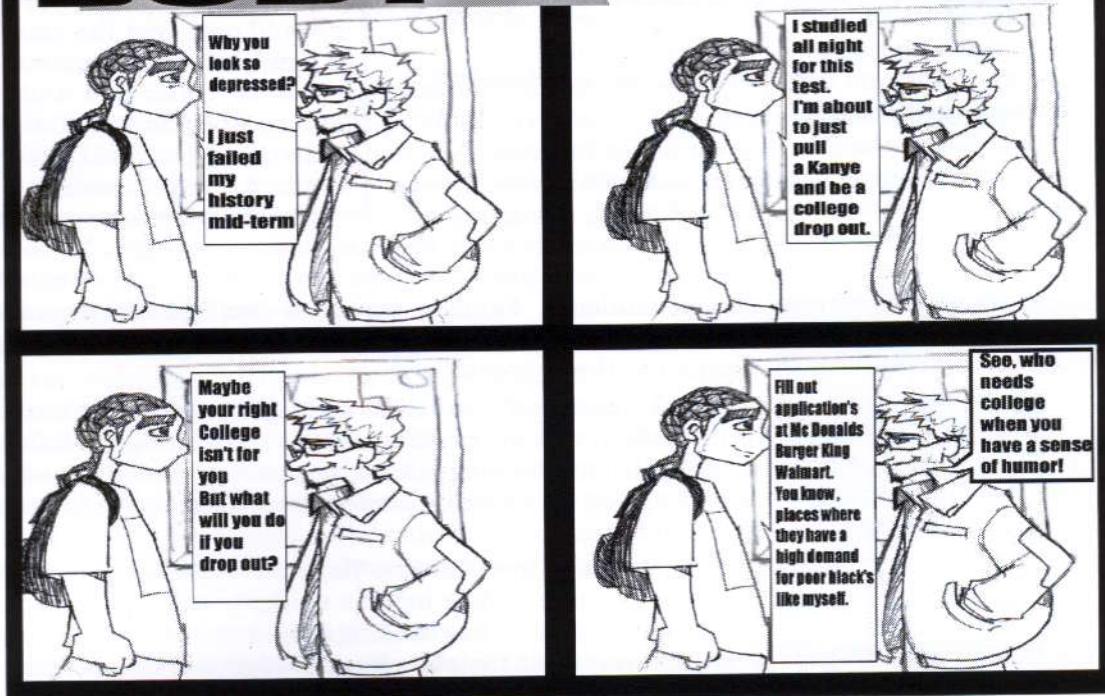
I was proud to be representing RCC that day. I am sure many of the students there did not even know there was such a school. They know now! Hardworking members of the RCC staff like Dr. Padmore, Mark Garth and others arrange events here for our benefit. Taking the time to read and participate is the least we can do and benefits us more than it benefits them. Don't let these opportunities go to waste!

Another thing that struck me was the lack of American black students at the sessions. One session held at Fidelity had only 2 black students. A young female Haitian immigrant attending UMass-Boston was the only other black student there. The other session held at the Chubb Group had one older African gentleman and an elderly Asian. I wondered if African Americans have given up on their country. I wish I had seen at least one. It would have made me feel better (this is not to suggest that I was made to feel uncomfortable in any way). Are immigrants now left to continue the black struggle? Surely the struggle must begin with educational and economic empowerment on a wide scale.

I asked a young "hustler" why with all the opportunities he has (opportunities I wish I had), he wasn't going back to school. "Nah, too slow for me dog," was his reply. He is now in prison. I wonder how fast he'll achieve his goals now.

Student BODY 101

GREGORY ST-DICK



Get Up, and Stand Up. Black Woman on The Rise

Charlotte Cowan



Throughout history black woman have been the backbone of our families and urban communities. They have always held it together during rough times and bared the burden of raising children that will never be equal and always be oppressed. Through it all, they always remain strong and determined to prevail.

Dating all the way back to the birth of the African American, black women have not only been raising families, they've been running business. Women like Kathy Ferguson who was a slave until she was sixteen years old, and upon being freed, became a professional cake baker. Ferguson also ran a catering business in which the majority of her customers were wealthy white people. Susan Remond, daughter of a former slave expanded her mother's fancy-cake service to a business that dominated all other of its kind right here in Salem, Massachusetts.

The list goes on and on, from Maggie Lena Walker who was the first woman to own a bank in the United States to Ruth J. Bowen, the first successful Black female to own a booking and talent agency. All of these women have paved the way for others like Opera Winfrey, the world's first Black female billionaire, to succeed.

**African-American
woman around the
United States are real-
izing their ambitions
and not letting a rocky
road get in their way.**

Many of the Black woman right here at Roxbury Community College are stepping up to the plate by being full-time moms, full-time students and part-time employees. Mitzi Sweeney is one of these women, a nursing major, mother of two and part-time makeup artist at Lord and Taylor says "I make the sacrifice because in the long run I will come out on top. This is not an investment for me it's for my family."

African-American woman around the United Stated are realizing their ambitions and not letting a rocky road get in their way. As reported by Audrey Edwards in an article October 2005 Issue of Essences Magazine, African-American women in 2004 owned an estimated 415,000 business. These businesses employ 254,000 people and generate \$19.5 billion a year. Another article from Ebony in October 1997, stated black women make 3.8 percent of the CEO's and vice presidents in community foundations combined, compared to 1.1 percent of black men. According the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* the number of black women receiving degrees in 2002 through 2003 was 92,193 higher then that of black men.

We have endured many struggles, but the fight is not over. As these sisters did and continue to do, it is time for all of us to get up, stand up and do our thing, because we are black woman on the rise.

The Gateway Gazette

Othneil Wilson, Editor

Staff Reporters

Christian White

Gregory St Dick - Cartoons

Charlotte Cowan

Tracey Moore

Robert Folan-Johnson, Graphics and Layout

Comments and Letters should be sent to the editor at:

jahbless@rcc.mass.edu

Academic advisors — Judy Kahalas and David Updike

The staff of the Gazette are also grateful to Milton Samuels, Liz Clark and Giselle O'Brady for their assistance this issue.

GAZETTE CULTURE

A Streetcar Not Without Controversy

Review

Charlotte Cowen

On November 18, 2005, Emerson College along with Roxbury Community College performed the fifty-eight year old Broadway hit "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams. In the original play a schoolteacher, named Blanche Dubois moves to New Orleans to live with her married and pregnant sister Stella. Both sisters were originally from a large plantation in the South and hadn't seen each other in years. Blanche never visited the large city before, and she seems to be quite intimidated. Upon her sister's directions, once arriving to the city Blanche takes a streetcar named Desire to a very small two-room apartment occupied by Stella and her husband Stanley Kowalski. Stanley is a Polish, blue-collar worker with a bit of temper and is suspicious about Blanche's past.

The director of this play decided to change the type of casting from that of the original movie by changing the appearance of Blanche and Stanley. For example, Blanche is supposed to be beautiful, sophisticated and decorated with all sorts of pearls and furs from admirers. In the play she's a little over weight with a lot of gray hair, and her clothes are very drab. Stanley is supposed to be Polish, but in the play he and all of his friends are definitely black men and are often compared to animals. Stanley's character and color could lead one to believe the play has a slight racial undertone.

As the story unfolds, Blanche and Stanley's relationship worsens day by day because he believes that Blanche is trying to pull the wool over his wife's eyes by not telling the truth about what happened to the plantation. One night Stanley's temper gets the best of him, and he hits his pregnant wife after having a few drinks. In the play if you had forgotten Stanley was Polish, you see the big black man slap his poor innocent white wife. After a little pleading, Stella forgives Stanley the "animal" with a late night gesture.

Such racial implications of rage within black men made this reviewer very uncomfortable and insulted to the point that I left the theater during intermission. I later learned that the director of the play was also a black woman who decided to cast black men in the role of white men in order to make the play diverse. This still leads me to feel uneasy because these black men we cast in to roles where they were constantly referred to as animals while displaying actions of rage and drunkenness. To this reviewer, the director would have a less controversial production by casting minorities in the roles of Blanche or Stella so that someone who has never seen the play or the movie would not get the wrong impression.

Richard Pryor, Legendary Comic, Dies at 65

At press time it was announced that comic Richard

Pryor has died after a long, courageous struggle with Multiple Sclerosis. Pryor was among the most popular comedians and entertainers of his generation. His acerbic, outrageous, crude, yet direct and honest humor, revolutionized stand-up comedy and launched Pryor onto stage, screen, and into America's consciousness. With brilliant comedic aplomb, Pryor had no qualms about sharing deeply personal aspects of his life with his audiences. Quincy Jones once aptly described Pryor as "the John Coltrane of comedy." Pryor's death is our loss and heaven's gain. And with him there, heaven will never be the same again.

sion as I did.

By the end of the play the truth is exposed about Blanche Dubois, and so are the answers to the many questions that arose during the play. Question like why Blanche left her teaching position in the middle of the semester. Why she left the family plantation, why she had so many nice things and why she was attracted to and enticed the delivery boy. All the answers leading back to the streetcar she rode in on ...Desire.



Streetcar cast members, Susan Lombardi-Verticelli as Stella, Daver Morrison (Stanley), Claudio Lopez (Pablo), Kathleen Patrick Donahue (Blanche), Greg Andre Francis (Steve) and David Curtis as Mitch.

RCC Profile



Who Is... Christian White.

By Charlotte Cowan

Christian White was molested as a child. From the time he was two years old until he was ten years old he was sexually assaulted by someone near and dear to him. At that time in his life White said he had "No voice to speak out" about what he was enduring. It's sad to say but he is not alone: approximately six percent of boys in the US and Canada are sexually abused before the age of sixteen.

This sexual abuse set into play the disastrous blueprint for the next 23 years of White's life. He began to repeat the cycle on his own brothers and sister until he realized at the age of twelve that it was not the acceptable behavior. For the next few years White was filled with "confusion and anger" which is when he turned to the streets.

After four years of gang banging and selling drugs, at seventeen years old White was facing his first criminal offence, a murder charge. While awaiting trial he picked up his second offence, assault and battery on a police officer, which proved

He was sexually assaulted by someone near and dear to him. At that time in his life White said he had "No voice to speak out" about what he was enduring.

to be the first of many convictions White racked up over the years. To some, his behavior may be considered outrageous, but many studies have shown that adult men who were sexually abused as children undergo symptoms just like White's. These

symptoms include depression, thoughts of suicide, poor body image, low self-esteem, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, violence and post traumatic stress disorder, all of which were present in White's behavior up until that point. At the age of twelve White was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and prescribed Nortriptyline, an anti depressant that balance out his nervous system and helped him win what he called his "personal war."

After serving seven years in prison and enduring that "Personal War," he was ready for a change and for a new blueprint for the remaining years in his life. The first step for White was to acknowledge that he couldn't change on his own and that he needed to seek professional help. The next steps were to stop using drugs and to find an outlet for his frustration. In his final years of prison, White composed two books about his life that he said proved to be therapeutic, and he also received the professional help that he needed.

Now that he is out of prison, White's future plans include getting a degree in child psychology, and writing a children's book about how children can speak up against abuse.

Ask Tracy with Tracy Moore



Dear Tracy,

The stress of being a single mom, full-time student and a divorcee with a part-time job leaves me with no time for myself. I feel like I am about to explode. I am tired, stressed, and sometimes frustrated, so what do you suggest I do?

-Breaking Point

Dear Breaking Point,

Time management is the key. You need a schedule that will balance being a mom and a student and having a job. Try these ideas and pick which one works for you. Try to get up a little earlier in the mornings and make dinner so you don't have to do it when you get home. Have a set schedule for your household if you don't already; for example, plan what time the family will eat and sleep and the best time for you to do homework and study. Most importantly, relax! If you put your child to bed early, you'll find time for yourself. Don't forget, you are the person who holds everything together and in order to keep it together, you must find time for yourself. Good luck!

Dear Tracy,

Why do women worry about rape and sexual harassment when they are wearing pants that drop below their underwear, revealing what, to some of us, is way too much? Why can't young women focus on projecting their intelligence, their strength, their confidence and their inner beauty? Why can't they leave their sexual attributes in more discreet places? Shouldn't they think about the message they are sending their daughters? Tell me, Tracy, what do you think about this matter. I am concerned.

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I'm glad that you asked me this question. Before I answer, I would like to start by expressing that it doesn't matter what a woman is wearing, she is never asking for rape or any kind of sexual assault or harassment. Women should focus on projecting their intelligence; however, we have to realize within ourselves that we are beautiful, and no one can tell us that. We have to find our own confidence and strength. Unfortunately, it can take longer for some people than others. Some women feel that if they've got it, why not flaunt it—they won't have it forever. Women should think about the message that they are sending their daughters, but if they don't think much of themselves, what does that tell you?

Got a problem? Then just ask Tracy at tracy@ccc.edu

Poetry

Families Struggle Too

Christian White

As the young hustler awoke at dawn
He scurried outside turning patches of lawn

Grandmother was busy readying for church
Prayer books and programs filling her purse

He ran back inside eyes wide from his find
Just where he left it, referring to Tec 9.

Grandma finished praying and put her keys in her pocket
She started praying again when she saw his eye sockets

For grandma knew about the things in his room
Nine shells in gun clips and occasional brew

Plus little rocks their names she couldn't recall
Sees him constantly handshaking with people short and tall

Back in his room he started searching through clothes
and,
Thinking of Grandma's constant preaching of Moses

He shrugged it off without a second thought
Prepared his glass for the package he sought

Through cooking and bagging he kept having visions
Of graveyards, deathbeds, and surgeon incisions

When everything was done he cleaned up his mess
Then jetted to the block to put his product to the test

Now everyone around him was scandalous and trife
Yet he had his gun and could be just as shyste

Little did he know about the tinted El Dorado
Containing three Macs and four of his foes

The money was coming, sales of twenties and dimes
Paranoia swept over him as he walked towards Tec 9

About to reach his stash feeling good because he made it
That Caddy with tints pulled up and started praying

Seeing guns producing fire remembers some kind of mask
He tried to scramble and shoot but the Macs spit too fast

Grandma for no reason jumped out of her seat
While the preacher ran over she visions her street

On it her grandson was colored all red
Holes in his body and missing his head

The preacher said "Go home for you need a nap"
Feeling pains in her heart she did just that

She turned on her street with sudden remembrance
Already knew when she saw the ambulance

She heard her grandson's voice saying "Please grandma
join me"

At that moment she blacked out and crashed into a tree.

The street life not only hurts you but the ones who love
you. It's time to change

Being Black

Miesha N. Williams

I am a young African American woman.

I am a reflection of what you would consider black.
My hips sway as I walk and sound like the drums in
a safari.

My lips are almond shaped, colored and succulently
sweet.

My eyes are slightly light brown and deep as the
night.

I have a creamy caramel complexion which changes
as I give birth to new generations.

My nose is full and round.

My teeth are big and bright.

My smile sends waves of essence and vibrates all of
my rhythm.

Beautiful hair so tightly curled and placed.

My hands, still youthful and soft to the touch but
tired from working.

My breasts sit slightly down my chest, full of life
and shaped like perfectly ripe melons.

My mind is constantly swirling and turning, coming
up with new ideas and inventions. My soul shivers
and shifts with every breath I consume and life
seems to spin out of control.

I'm limp.

My breath is hot from the truth and gospel.

I sit and watch as my son sets on my son.

Giving life and stepping forth with pride and his
loins girt against him.

The Alpha and Omega.

I sit and watch my creation never ending and always
bright, stronger than any nation.

My strength is he and I make us as we melt against
each other forming a bond.

We share that special bond, that thing that exists
only between us.

Only we can understand it. We are evolution and
creation.

One unit set aside from the rest, the best thing
since sliced bread. I sit and watch my life, my
beauty, and my people.

Academics

Career & Transfer Services Spring 2006 Activities

Activities are held during the Activity Block, 1130 AM -12; 30 PM, unless otherwise noted. Each of the activities listed below qualifies as an "outside activity" for College Survival Seminar!

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
FEBRUARY EVENTS		
Monday, 02/06	Career & Transfer Services Information Table For day students: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Academic Lobby
Tuesday, 02/14	Career & Transfer Services Information Table For evening students: 4:30PM - 6:00 PM	Academic Lobby
Thursday, 02/16	"Discover" a Career and a College Major Seminar	Library, Computer Lab
Tuesday, 02/27	Transferring to a 4-year School Seminar Spring and Summer Internship Information Table	Academic Lobby Academic Lobby
MARCH EVENTS		
Tuesday, 03/21	Resume Writing Seminar	132 Academic Bldg.
Thursday, 03/23	Transferring to a 4-year School Seminar	132 Academic Bldg.
Tuesday 03/28	Job Search Strategies & Interviewing Techniques Seminar	Library, Computer Lab
APRIL EVENTS		
Monday, 04/03	RCC On-Campus Allied Health Career Fair 10•00 AM - 2:00 PM Room 200	Student Center
Monday, 04/10	RCC On-Campus General Career Fair 10•00 AM - 2:00 PM Room 200	Student Center
Thursday, 04/13	Transferring to a 4-year School Seminar	132 Academic Bldg.
Tues 4/25 & Thurs 4/27	Summer and Fall Internship Information Table	Student Center, Room 200
Tuesday, 04/25	Career & Transfer Planning For Evening Students For evening students S :OOPM - 6:OOPM	Academic Lobby

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Do You love to write or have work to be published?

Have you got poems and short stories?

Would you like to comment on Gateway articles?

We welcome all contributions, in all languages, from our fellow students, and from RCC staff.

Send to: Editor,
jahbless@rcc.mass.edu



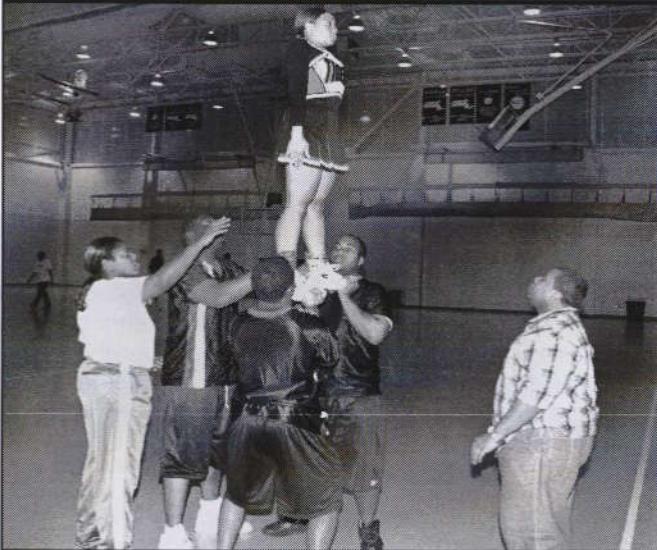
Attention RCC Students! Need Help with your Taxes?



The VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is open to all members of the RCC community needing help in preparing and/or filing their income tax. Trained volunteers are ready to prepare your taxes in Room 301 of the Student Center. Please call Ext. 5242 for more information.

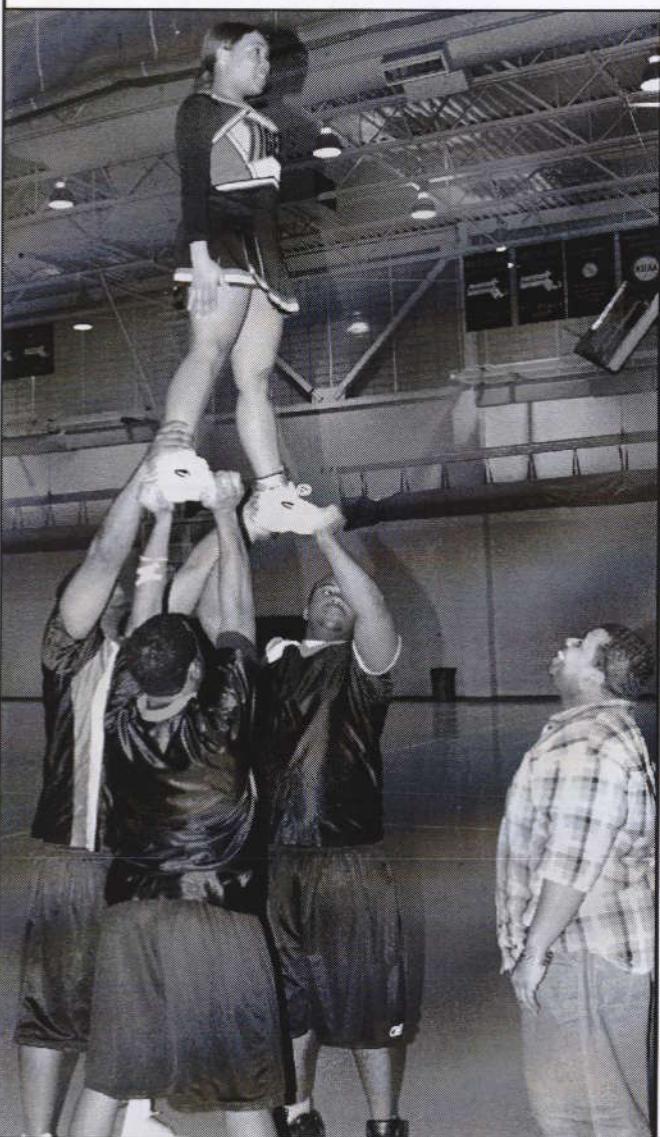
RCC TIGERS 2005 / 2006 MENS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	SCHOOL	H/A	TIME
JAN 7	Gateway C.C.	A	3:00 P
17	Mass Bay C.C.	H	3:00 P
19	<i>UConn/A</i>	A	<i>7:00P</i>
1	<i>Quinsigamond C.C.</i>	A	<i>2:00P</i>
24	<i>Massasoit C.C.</i>	A	<i>6:00P</i>
31	STCC	A	<i>8:00 P</i>
FEB 2	<i>N..Essex C.C.</i>	A	<i>8:00P</i>
6	<i>Mass Bay C.C.</i>	A	<i>8:00P</i>
9	<i>Ben Franklin</i>	A	<i>8:00P</i>
14	U-Conn A/P	H	7:00P
16	<i>Holyoke C.C.</i>	A	<i>7:00P</i>
18	<i>Briarwood</i>	A	<i>3:00P</i>
20	Gateway	H	<i>7:00P</i>



RCC squad members, with Coach Bembury at right, doing a "full extension" lift.

Photos: Milton Samuels



Cheerleaders

(Continued from page 12)

says.

Many on the team have also never been cheerleaders before. They only have seen cheerleading at school, on television and in movies such as *Bring It On*. That peaks their interest and they join the squad. Yet Bembury asserts that even his novice squad members seem to meet the challenge and become good cheerleaders.

"They find out they can do things they thought they could never do," he says. "My method is when you come to tryout for my team, I tell them you can't use the words, 'I can't do it.' I feel you can do anything you want to do."

As a cheerleader, that can be a lot. Competitions require a full routine be performed.

"Five minute routines that combine into one," says the coach, "with stunts, music, sound effects, cheers, jumps, lifts." It must be a choreographed presentation that has to be creative, rousing and disciplined, so not to risk accidents and injuries. Mastering these routines requires time, effort, and practice, the labor of true athletes.

Fortunately, unlike the requirements for playing on college sports, cheerleaders are not required to be full time students. This provides the squad with an advantage in recruiting students that other RCC teams don't have. "Although I consider them as athletes," Bembury emphasizes, "the school does not, so I use full time and part time students."

Whether they be full time or part time students, the coach continuously stresses the importance of an education to his team. His motto, "Education is first, cheerleading is second. We are still RCC, we are a school...One with a big heart and big determination."

Tigers

(Continued from page 12)

postponement of other games were because of the lack of Tiger's players needed to fill out the required team roster. This shortage of qualified students wanting to play for RCC teams has already forced the cancellation of the women's basketball season.

The NJCAA requires all team players to be full time students (12 credits per semester). Playing on the team also requires considerable commitment to attend practices and games. Unfortunately, the team has had difficulty recruiting these full time students to play on school teams. The shortage of players is not unique to RCC as other state community colleges are reported to be having the same problem.

To enlarge the size of the basketball team the RCC Athletic department is still recruiting new athletes. The Tigers now have about seven players according to Jessica Gonzalaz of the athletic department. With luck new players will join the team. If you are interested in playing on the team, contact the athletic department at (617) 541-2475.

Gazette Sports

RCC Cheerleading Squad Makes the Grade.

Robert Folan-Johnson

RCC may be a small community college yet its athletic department has had an impressive list of triumphs, including winning state and even national championship titles. But there is another RCC athletic squad whose school contributions and competitive efforts are often overlooked. An RCC team, which season after season, through good times and bad, never fails in displaying its school spirit. They are RCC Tigers cheerleaders.

Lance Bembury, the coach of the cheerleading squad, recognizes RCC's accomplishments in athletics over the years. Nevertheless, Bembury has ambitions for his cheerleaders. "Even though we [at RCC] are already on the map, we want to stand out for cheerleading as well," says Bembury. His squad of 7 women and 4 men want to do that not just by cheering the efforts of the basketball team, but as competitive athletes.

This fall the cheerleading squad will show their stuff by participating in numerous cheerleading competitions. On November 5th the squad placed second in their first outing of the season. Their next competition is Dec 18th, with more to follow as the season progresses.

Preparing for competitions can be challenging for a group of busy students with busy lives. "Most of the girls on the Tiger's squad are mothers," says Bembury. "They are balancing motherhood, school, cheerleading, while some of them also work. And before a competition we practice everyday. That is a whole lot for them to do," the coach

(Continued on page 11)

B-Ball Season Gets Rolling at Last

1st Game a Loss for Tigers
RCC Action Sports Desk

The long hoped for first game of the Tiger's mens basketball season was played November 10th as a small and struggling Tiger's team were soundly beaten, 90-47, by visiting Briarwood at the Reggie Lewis Center. What was encouraging about the loss is that the game was actually played. The Tiger's had been unable to play many of their scheduled games this season. Games against Gateway, Northern Essex and Massasoit have been postponed until later in the season. The team was forced to forfeit the Nov 28th game against Springfield Tech, the second game of the new season. The forfeit against Springfield Tech and the



**The 2005 RCC Tigers
Cheerleaders in "two to one formation."**

Photo: Milton Samuels

(Continued on page 11)